In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 7 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An improved dental prosthesis comprising:

an implant abutment affixed at a lower end to a dental implant, having a threaded metal shaft which is to be received in a threaded bore formed in the dental implant;

said implant abutment having an implant abutment axis;

a groove in said implant abutment extending substantially transverse to said axis

and O-ring of elastomeric material stretched about said implant abutment and elastically retained in said groove, said O-ring having a cross-sectional diameter substantially greater than the depth of said groove such that an outer portion of said O-ring projects from an outer axial surface of said implant abutment; and

an appliance having a retainer cavity including a retainer surface closely telescopically mateable onto said outer axial implant abutment surface, there being a complementary groove in said retainer surface shaped to closely match and receive said outer portion of the O-ring, said O-ring thus making a resilient retentive fit between said ~~prosthesis~~ appliance and said implant abutment.

2. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 1 wherein said implant abutment includes a tapered surface for guiding engagement with said retainer cavity of said appliance.

3. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 2 wherein said implant abutment is threadedly connected to said implant.

4. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 3 wherein said implant abutment is formed from metal.

5. (Previously Amended) The prosthesis of claim 4 wherein said appliance is formed from metal and processed into a denture.

6. (Previously Amended) The prosthesis of claim 5 wherein said appliance is formed from porcelain fused to metal.

7. (Currently Amended) An implant dental prosthesis comprising:

an implant abutment affixed at a lower end to a dental implant, having a threaded metal shaft which is to be received in a threaded bore formed in the dental implant,

said implant abutment having an implant abutment axis; and

a circumferential groove in said implant abutment extending substantially transverse to said axis and a retentive element between ~~said~~ ~~prosthesis~~ an appliance and said implant abutment for co-operating with said circumferential groove;

~~an~~ said appliance having a hollow retainer cavity with an outwardly and downwardly taper relative to said implant abutment axis forming a retainer surface telescopically mateable on an upwardly and inwardly extending facing a mating tapered surface on said axial implant abutment including coupling means for a resilient retentive fit between said mating tapered surfaces.

8. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 7 wherein said tapered surfaces are in frictional engagement.

10. (Previously Amended) The prosthesis of claim 7 where said retentive element is a plane generally transverse to the axis of said implant abutment.

11. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 10 wherein said retentive element is an O-ring in complementary grooves in said tapered surfaces.

12. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 4 wherein said appliance is formed from metal and processed into a partial denture.

13. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 4 wherein said appliance is formed from metal and processed into a splinted bar.